

On an incidental catch of Spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris*

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Spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828) was incidentally entangled in an encircling gill net (55 mm mesh size) off Mangaluru on 18th September, 2013 and landed at the Mangalore Fisheries Harbour (Fig. 1). The mammal was found entangled in the net deployed at about 60 m depth around 04 00 am in the morning. Fishermen were of the opinion that Spinner dolphins mostly get caught in the net when the water is turbid and visibility is low. The morphometric measurements of the dolphin are given in Table 1.



Fig. 1. Spinner dolphin landed at Mangalore Fisheries Harbour

They are often found moving ahead of or along with the fishing vessels. They are reported to feed mainly at night on small fishes, squids and shrimps. In the present male Spinner dolphin, which was measuring 151 cm in length and weighing about 30 kilograms the gut was found to be empty.

Table 1. Morphometric measurement of Spinner dolphin

Morphometrics	Measurement (cm)
Tip of upper jaw to deepest part of fluke notch	151
Tip of upper jaw to centre of anus	109
Tip of upper jaw to centre of genital slit	99

Tip of upper jaw to centre of umbilicus	75
Tip of upper jaw to top of dorsal fin	88
Tip of upper jaw to anterior insertion of flipper	40
Tip of upper jaw to centre of blowholes	30
Tip of upper jaw to centre of eye	28
Tip of upper jaw to angle of gape	27
Tip of upper jaw to apex of melon	15
Notch of flukes to centre of anus	49
Rostrum- maximum width	7
Height of eye	0.6
Length of eye	1.6
Blowhole length	1.1
Blowhole width	1.7
Flipper width	13
Flipper length (tip to anterior insertion)	23
Flipper length (tip to axilla)	18
Dorsal fin height	15
Dorsal fin base	21
Fluke span	34
Fluke width	10
Fluke depth at notch	1.3
Girth at anus	40
Girth at axilla	67
Girth at eye	49
Total number of tooth on one side of upper jaw	43
Total number of tooth on one side of lower jaw	46
Genital slit length	6
Anal slit length	2.2